(c) and (d) An allocation of Rs. 250 crore per year on 100 per cent grant basis is being made for implementation of a Special Plan in KBK region.

Improving of environment of Himalayan Region

795. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute Himalayan Development Authority or Central Himalayan Development Authority with a view to make rapid development and to improve the environment of Himalayan Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to develop this area rapidly in view of the environmental importance of the Central Himalayan Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps among others have been taken to develop the region: (i) North Eastern Council (NEC) has been established to look after the all round development of the North-East, (ii) Department of North Eastern Region (DONER) has been established for the same purpose, (iii) 10 per cent of the Plan Allocation of Central Ministries are earmarked for NE Region, (iv) Under Backward District Initiative of RSVY, Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, assistance is given for development of selected Districts, Blocks, Areas of the Himalayan Region, (v) GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has been set up which implements specific projects meant for protecting the ecology of the region, (vi) Most of the States are declared as Special Category States which receive Special Plan Assistance as 90 per cent Grant and 10 per cent as Loan against Non-Special Category States getting 30 per cent Grant and 70 per cent loan. Beside, they enjoy a number of concessions in many Central Schemes.